

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (New) A method of performing a data operation on a storage device over a network, the method comprising:

receiving a request for performing a data operation on the storage device, the request

using a disk operations format;

attempting to read a data block from a local cache corresponding to the storage device if

the request is to read data from the storage device;

responsive to not being able to read the data block from the local cache, requesting and

receiving the data block from the storage device over the network using a network communications format; and

writing the data block to the local cache.

4. (New) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

writing the data block to the local cache and transmitting the data block to the storage device over the network using the network communications format if the request is to write data.

5. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the local cache is disk-based.

6. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the storage device is a block-level storage device.

7. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein the storage device is a Storage Area Network.

8. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the disk operations format implements Small Computer System Interface.

9. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the network communications format implements Internet Protocol.

10. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the request is one of a plurality of requests received for performing data operations on a plurality of storage devices, and the local cache corresponds to each of the plurality of storage devices.

11. (New) A computer program product for performing a data operation on a storage device over a network, the computer program product stored on a computer readable medium and adapted to perform operations comprising:

receiving a request for performing a data operation on the storage device, the request using a disk operations format;

attempting to read a data block from a local cache corresponding to the storage device if the request is to read data from the storage device;

responsive to not being able to read the data block from the local cache, requesting and receiving the data block from the storage device over the network using a network communications format; and

writing the data block to the local cache.

12. (New) The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the local cache is disk-based.

13. (New) The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the disk operations format implements Small Computer System Interface.

14. (New) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the network communications format implements Internet Protocol.

15. (New) The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the request is one of a plurality of requests received for performing data operations on a plurality of storage devices, and the local cache corresponds to each of the plurality of storage devices.

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X 16. (New) An apparatus for performing a data operation on a storage device over a network, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a request for performing a data operation on the storage device, the request using a disk operations format;

means for attempting to read a data block from a local cache corresponding to the storage device if the request is to read data from the storage device;

means for responding to not being able to read the data block from the local cache by requesting and receiving the data block from the storage device over the network using a network communications format; and

means for writing the data block to the local cache.

17. (New) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the local cache is disk-based.

18. (New) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the disk operations format implements Small Computer System Interface.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the network communications format implements Internet Protocol.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the request is one of a plurality of requests received for performing data operations on a plurality of storage devices, and the local cache corresponds to each of the plurality of storage devices.

21. (New) A method for accommodating a data operation on a storage device over a network, the method comprising:

receiving a request for a data block from a client device over the network using a network communications format, the data block corresponding to the storage device and the request being received in response to a cache miss corresponding to an attempt by the client to read the data block from a cache local to the client device; using a disk operations format corresponding to the request to read the data block from the storage device; and transmitting the data block to the client device in response to the request.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the disk operations format implements Small Computer System Interface.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the network communications format implements Internet Protocol.

24. (New) A system for performing a data operation on a storage device over a network, the system comprising:

a cache module, which receives a request for performing a data operation on the storage device, the request using a disk operations format, and which attempts to read a data block from a local cache corresponding to the storage device if the request is to read data from the storage device;

an initiator module, in communication with the cache module, which responds to not being able to read the data block from the local cache by requesting and receiving the data block from the storage device over the network using a network communications format; and

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a target module, which receives the request for the data block from the initiator module, reads the data block from the storage device, and sends the data block to the initiator module over the network using the network communications format.

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25. (New) The system of claim 24, wherein the local cache is disk-based.

26. (New) The system of claim 24, wherein the disk operations format implements Small Computer System Interface.

27. (New) The system of claim 26, wherein the network communications format implements Internet Protocol.
